

28th September 2020

Dear Parents

RE: Keeping in touch

We hope this update letter finds you well. It has been a challenging week to lead our school as Covid-19 has unfortunately impacted on us. We would like to offer my sincere thanks to the countless parents who have responded to these predicaments with positivity and support for our school. We have greatly appreciated the smiles and messages of good will received. Rest assured, however trying times may become in the future, our commitment to the success and safety of our children and staff will remain unaltered.

Once again, our children are enjoying achieving and learning successfully with their teachers and friends, whether that remotely or in school. Their adaptability to the changes of routine, environment, adults, and procedures has been great and shows that so many of our pupils are resilient learners.

Recovery Curriculum

In the previous academic year, many of our children missed up to 69 days of schooling. This year, we are committed to responding proactively and positively to this and I am excited to see our recovery curriculum materialising in school. We have proactively planned to ensure our children will continue to flourish spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, academically, and physically. Each class teacher has formulated a dynamic action plan as a commitment to ensuring, through a series of proactive and positive responses, that missed opportunities for achievement and learning can be restored for our children. We will do so by providing and ensuring the following points:

- **Excellence in assessment of learning** – missed learning from the Summer term in the previous academic year will be reviewed and delivered where needed.
- **Quality first teaching** – we have a committed and experienced team of teachers who will continue to provide high quality professional development focusing on quality-first teaching.
- **High quality targeted specific interventions** – we will continue to offer a range of high quality interventions within school time focused on number, reading and writing, which is carefully targeted, rapidly reviewed and progress is measured.
- **Home and school working together in unity** – we will continue our belief that when families and school work together, amazing things can happen.
- **Broad and balanced curriculum** – we want our children to flourish across the curriculum in a broad range of subjects.
- **Excellence in emotional wellbeing** – we are proud to say that your child's emotional wellbeing is at the heart of our curriculum, and we take the time to understand all children's emotions in our school and offer support as one.

Information evening

Whilst we would normally hold our annual information evening, giving you an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, we unfortunately are unable to fulfil this event during this current time.

Therefore, teachers have spent time creating a comprehensive information booklet so you understand what each class are learning and how you can help at home! These will be with you by the end of the week; in the meantime, if you would like to discuss anything with your child's class teacher, please use the dedicated class email addresses, or we welcome a telephone call.

Parent consultation evening

Again, we are currently setting plans for our parent's consultation evening, usually held in the week commencing 19th October. At present, we cannot confirm arrangements, however, it will be held within this final week of the half-term. More information will be released soon.

Harvest

Whilst we are currently under a lot of restrictions, all staff and children are committed to helping our community and sharing the harvest festivities. We will be joining in with the village scarecrow competition; keep a look out near our school gate for our entry at the weekend.

We are delighted to inform you that we will be supporting the '**Needs Project**' at Central Bedfordshire, by helping to supply them with food donations for their foodbank. We will, from **Friday, 2nd October until Friday, 9th October**, be placing a box outside the green gate where we would welcome your support in donating items for the Needs Project food banks. All donations will be quarantined before handing over to the Needs Project.

Items they request:

- Non-perishable goods (however, where possible **no** pasta or beans)
- Tinned goods – e.g. vegetables, meat, fruit, custard, rice pudding
- Jars – e.g. pasta sauces, jam, curry sauces
- Packets e.g. tea, coffee, biscuits (with good sell by dates on), rice.

We appreciate and thank any form of donation, as every little contribution will go a long way in supporting those in need in our local area.

Drop off and collection

We are continually adapting and reviewing our drop off and collection procedures and over the past week it has come to our attention that there are a few minor teething problems that need reaffirming.

As you are aware, we are operating 3 different drop off and collection times each day. This will avoid groups from mixing outside before the day begins and prevent parents from congregating or having to wait for different pupil group timings. Our timings are very tight to allow for a full curriculum to be delivered. It is imperative that only parents and pupils due to be dropped off/collected enter the school site at their designated times.

If you arrive earlier than this, you must wait outside the school site until your allocated time slot. It is suggested that you remain in your vehicle or avoid crossing the road until your child's class drop off or collection time. There have been a couple of times where groups of adults and children are standing in close proximity to each other. These staggered measures are very much for the safety of our parents and wider community and must be adhered to.

Please can I also reaffirm that on drop off or collection, children are to stand with their parents and not play at the top of the pathway with their peers, despite them perhaps being from the same

bubble. We need to ensure the drop off and collection procedures are robust and adhering to social distancing guidance at all times. I do hope this provides further reassurance that we will continue to monitor our procedures to ensure the safe management of risk to our community.

Coronavirus update:

We have been advised that we are seeing seasonal colds and respiratory illness earlier than normal this year. This means that there are more of these illnesses circulating at present, and it is therefore important to recognise the difference between these and COVID-19.

Children with symptoms of the common cold, including runny noses and sore throats, can continue to attend school so long as they are well enough to do so. Please be aware that we are unable to advise on whether a child should be in attendance or not as parents are best placed to make the decision on whether their child is fit for school in the morning.

Please follow the government guidelines and if your child is displaying any of the COVID symptoms they should remain at home until a negative test result can be obtained or until 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

A recently updated **flowchart for parents about COVID-19** and what to do if your child develops symptoms can be found on our website: - <http://hcschool.org.uk/symptoms-and-isolation/>.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child does attend school and a member of staff feels your child has any of the above symptoms, you will be asked to collect your child/children immediately.

Remote learning

It is important that we are all prepared for further potential closures. As such, we will be sending more information out to all parents within the school and this will be shared with you in the next few weeks.

School Census 01/10/2020 – Funding

UIFSM – Robins, Doves & Owls

Each term our school undertakes a census for the Local Authority. The data captured is used to calculate the funding given to schools. In particular this term is focussed on funding for the Universal Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme. The more children that take a meal the more funding the school will receive.

As parents can choose whether their child takes this up on a weekly/daily basis, our costs can go up and down, unlike the funding which is set on census day level for the whole year.

You can see that if not many children decided to take a UIFSM on the census day and subsequently lots of children decided to take a meal in the following months, the school would have to fund the difference out of their existing budget. We are able to use any money in excess of our costs in the classrooms to benefit our children.

Therefore, we would ask you to help us by ensuring your child takes a UIFSM on census day, 01/10/2020. If your child is insistent on taking a home packed lunch, you can still have a UIFSM and if your child does not want to eat all of it they can eat some of their home packed lunch as well.

What do I need to do?

We have taken the decision to book all children from Robins, Doves and Owl a UIFSM meal for the 01/10/2020 so there is nothing for you to do; unless you do not want your child to receive one. In which case you should email office@hschool.org.uk by 5pm on Wednesday 30/09/2020

Thank you

Thank you again for your continued support during these defining times; without your support, we would not be able to provide your children with the safe and loving environment they need to thrive. Together we can ensure that all children make the progress they deserve and can enjoy being back at school!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heaslip', written in a cursive style.

Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher